

Below is information on OSMRE's recently finalized program guidance for dispersing FY 2018 Abandoned Mine Lands Economic Grants, which includes funding for Tribes for the first time in FY 2018. This AML program primarily addresses sites that had coal mining, and not hard rock or other mineral mining. I believe OSMRE selected the tribes included in the guidance because they have the strongest coal reclamation or coal mining oversight programs. The guidance is attached. Below is background on the program and 2019 appropriations to date.

The next step for the 2018 grants process is for Tribes to submit projects to OSMRE for approval, and then they will receive their allocations. OSMRE will be meeting with the Tribes on Thursday, Oct. 30 to describe the process and the need to provide project proposals in a timely manner.

### **Background**

The AML Economic Grants program is a relatively new effort which began in 2016, and the goal is to support projects that address both abandoned mine clean up and advance economic development in rural areas. This program was originally a priority of then Appropriations Full committee Chairman Hal Rogers (KY), and it continues to be a priority for members from Appalachia. In FY 2018, Congress added \$10 million to the program for Tribes.

OSMRE finalized their 2018 program guidance a few weeks ago and they will distribute the \$10 million evenly among the Crow, Navajo and Hopi.

### **Status of FY 2019 Appropriations for AML Economic Grants for Tribes**

In FY 2019, the Senate continues to provide \$10 million for Tribes within the OSMRE's economic development grants. The House shifted this funding for Tribes from OSMRE to IEED's Loan Guarantee Program in order to leverage funding. The House and Senate appropriation report language on this program is provided below.

#### **2019 House Appropriations Report Language**

"The Committee believes that Tribal economic development is also important and continues to provide \$10,000,000 to Tribes for the purposes of economic development for fiscal year 2019. However, in lieu of providing funds through OSM, the Committee recommends a \$10,000,000 increase to the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development in order to leverage Federal funds and benefit more Tribes. The funding will increase the Indian Loan Guarantee Program by \$10,000,000 and is projected to generate an additional \$200,000,000 in private sector loans to finance business, economic, energy, and infrastructure projects in Indian Country."

#### **2019 House Appropriations Report Language**

"The Committee provided funds for Tribes for the first time in fiscal year 2018 and continues to believe that Tribes can contribute to the success of the pilot. For fiscal year 2019, the Committee has provided \$10,000,000 for grants to federally recognized Indian Tribes. Eligible grant recipients for the \$10,000,000 are also limited to Tribal governmental entities who may subcontract project related activities as appropriate."

## **[GUIDANCE FOR PROJECT ELIGIBILITY UNDER THE ABANDONED MINE LAND RECLAMATION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PILOT PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018](#)**